

CLAIMS

1 1. An automobile body having improved resistance to torsional deformation, the body
2 comprising:

3 (a) a left panel on a left side of the automobile;

4 (b) a right panel on a right side of the automobile;

5 (c) a left damper stiffener rigidly attached to the left panel near a left point of
6 attachment to the body of an automobile suspension;

7 (d) a right damper stiffener rigidly attached to the right panel near a right point of
8 attachment to the body of an automobile suspension;

9 (e) a left damper stiffener extension extending from rigid attachment to the left
10 damper stiffener to rigid attachment to a body member positioned rearward of the damper
11 stiffener; and

12 (f) a right damper stiffener extension extending from rigid attachment to the right
13 damper stiffener to rigid attachment to a body member positioned rearward of the damper
14 stiffener.

1 2. The automobile body in accordance with claim 1, wherein the body member is a side
2 panel outer.

1 3. The automobile body in accordance with claim 1, wherein the body member is a side
2 panel outer extension.

1 4. The automobile body in accordance with claim 1, wherein the body member includes
2 a side panel outer extension and a side panel outer.

1 5. The automobile body in accordance with claim 1, wherein the body member is a rear
2 panel.

1 6. The automobile body in accordance with claim 1, wherein the body member is a floor
2 frame member.

1 7. The automobile body in accordance with claim 6, wherein the body member further
2 comprises a rear panel.

1 8. An automobile body having improved resistance to torsional deformation, the body
2 comprising:

3 (a) a rear inner panel on a left side of the automobile;

4 (b) a rear inner panel on a right side of the automobile;

5 (c) a box-beam parcel shelf rigidly mounted at a left side to the left rear inner
6 panel and at a right side to the right rear inner panel.

1 9. The automobile body in accordance with claim 8, wherein the box-beam parcel shelf
2 further comprises first, second, third and fourth beam members, each beam member
3 having lateral edges, and said beam members being joined at lateral edges to one of said
4 lateral edges of an adjacent beam member to form walls of the box-beam parcel shelf.

1 10. The automobile body in accordance with claim 9, wherein the first and second beam
2 members are spaced substantially from one another, and the third and fourth members are
3 spaced substantially from one another.

1 11. An automobile body having improved resistance to torsional deformation, the body
2 comprising:

3 (a) a rear inner panel on a left side of the automobile;

4 (b) a rear inner panel on a right side of the automobile;

5 (c) a left damper stiffener rigidly attached to the left rear inner panel near a left
6 point of attachment to the body of an automobile suspension;

7 (d) a right damper stiffener rigidly attached to the right rear inner panel near a
8 right point of attachment to the body of an automobile suspension;

9 (e) a left damper stiffener extension extending from rigid attachment to the left
10 damper stiffener to rigid attachment to a body member positioned rearward of the damper
11 stiffener;

12 (f) a right damper stiffener extension extending from rigid attachment to the right
13 damper stiffener to rigid attachment to a body member positioned rearward of the damper
14 stiffener; and

15 (g) a box-beam parcel shelf rigidly mounted at a left side to the left rear inner
16 panel and at a right side to the right rear inner panel.

1 12. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the body member is a
2 side panel outer.

1 13. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the body member is a
2 side panel outer extension.

1 14. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the body member
2 includes a side panel outer extension and a side panel outer.

1 15. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the body member is a
2 rear panel.

1 16. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the body member is a
2 floor frame member.

1 17. The automobile body in accordance with claim 16, wherein the body member further
2 comprises a rear panel.

1 18. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the box-beam parcel
2 shelf further comprises first, second, third and fourth beam members, each beam member
3 having lateral edges, and said beam members being joined at lateral edges to one of said
4 lateral edges of an adjacent beam member to form walls of the box-beam parcel shelf.

1 19. The automobile body in accordance with claim 11, wherein the first and second
2 beam members are spaced substantially from one another, and the third and fourth
3 members are spaced substantially from one another.